bills received in Jhanghirpur Exchange is given below:—

1995-96	5
1996-97 upto date	3

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On complaint from the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, technical check was carried out and no fault was found. There was threrefore no cause for excess billing.

(d) All five complaints of 1995-96 have been disposed off.

(e) Following measures are being taken to reduce the cases of excess billing.

1. Subscribers having STD/ISD facilities are brought on electronic exchanges to the extent possible, which provides dynamic STD/ISD locking facility.
2. Indoor equipment and outdoor plants are regularly checked to ensure that there is no technical fault.
3. All DPs Pillars are put under lock to prevent misuse. Entry to the exchanges has been restricted.
4. Vigilance unit also conducts surprise checks to detect possible misuse or diversion of line.

National Defence Policy Documents

1082. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Defence has recommended to examine the feasibility of preparing a National Defence Policy document; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, In its Sixth Report, the Standing Committee on Defence (1995-96) had expressed the desire that the Government examine the feasibility of preparing a formal National Defence Policy document for being placed before the Parliament.

India has a comprehensive strategic policy based *inter-alia* on our threat perceptions and the global and regional security environment. This policy is continuously under review in the light of developments which impact on our national security.

Decrease in Water Level

1083. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that water level has gone down below the normal limit in wells in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajashtan, Orissa and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the respective Governments to store rain water and to make use of the same during the lean months?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the observations made on long term basis, decline of ground water level below the normal limit has been observed in certain parts of some districts of the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and West Bengal.

(b) In order to overcome the problem of decline in the level of ground water, these States are having water shed development programme to store rain water by constructing check dams, percolation tanks, farm ponds and through soil-water conservation.

ईस्टर्न बंगाल फ्रंटियर रेग्युलेशन अधिनियम (एस.आई.सी.) 1873

1084. श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला: क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या ईस्टर्न बंगाल फ्रंटियर रेगुलेशन अधिनियम, 1873 अभी भी कुछ पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में लागू है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उक्त अधिनियम के स्थान पर लागू किए गए अधिनियम का ब्यौरा क्या है?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहम्मद मकबूल डार): (क) जी हां, श्रीमान्।

(ख) और (ग) बंगाल ईस्टर्न फ्रंटियर रेगुलेशन, 1873 पूर्वोत्तर के कुछ क्षेत्रों में लागू है तथा इस समय अरुणाचल प्रदेश, नागालैण्ड और मिजोरम राज्यों में लागू किया जा रहा है।

Acquisition of Land for New Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh

1085. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department has acquired land for construction of new Post Offices at various centres in West Godavari, Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that land for a new post office building has been acquired in Dharmajigudem in West Godavari district;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the building has been completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A site measuring 20 cents was purchased for Rs. 20,000/-and taken possession of in 1982 at Dharmajigudem in West Godavari District.

(d) and (e) due to non-availability of adequate financial resources, it has not been possible for the Department to construct Post Office building at Dharmajigudem for the time being.

Extradition of Warren Anderson

1086. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the statement by M.C. Mehta, recipient of Goldman Environmental Award, Washington, that Government of India had not sought the extradition of Union Carbide Chairman Warren Anderson of Bhopal Gas tragedy, for fear of the displeasure of MNCs;

(b) whether Government had sought Mr. Anderson's extradition; and if so, the US response thereto; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Government have not seen such a statement made by M.C. Mehta, recipient of Goldman Environmental Award, Washington regarding extradition of Union Carbide Chairman, Warren Anderson to India. The Organisers of these events have not maintained any record of his speeches.

(b) and (c) the various aspects of the matter concerning the extradition of the former Chairman of Union Carbide Corporation are under the consideration of the Government.

Shortage of officers in army units

1087. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the Standard Herald (weekly), New Delhi, May 31 to June 6, 1996 that armed forces are facing unprecedented shortage of new officers especially in the combatant units;

(b) if so, the estimated shortage, overall and service-wise including the Medical and Engineering services;

(c) the main reasons for such shortage; and

(d) the steps have been/are being taken to make good the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d) There are some shortages in certain ranks in the Defence Services. Such shortages are not a new phenomenon. One of the reasons for shortages is the cadre structure of the Armed Forces. To make up the deficiencies measures such as introduction of University Entry Scheme, enhanced recruitment of permanent commissioned officers and Short Service Commissioned officers, induction of women as officers in the Armed Forces etc. have been taken.